

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. M: 35-75

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Clark House

and/or common

### 2. Location 3713 Underwood Street

street & number Chevy Chase

not for publication

city, town Maryland

Montgomery vicinity of

state

county

### 3. Classification

#### Category

☐ district)

☒ building(s)

☐ structure

☐ site

☐ object

#### Ownership

☐ public

☒ private

☐ both

#### Present Use

☐ agriculture

☐ commercial

☐ educational

☐ entertainment

☐ government

☐ industrial

☐ military

☐ museum

☐ park

☒ private residence

☐ religious

☐ scientific

☐ transportation

☐ other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Esther L. Isralow Et Al Tr

street & number 3713 Underwood Street

telephone no:

city, town Chevy Chase

state and zip code

Maryland 20815

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc Montgomery County Courthouse

Tax Map and Parcel

HN342; Lots 14&15, Bl

city, town Rockville state Maryland.

Liber and Folio

14579/0563

### 6. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Individually Listed in the National Register
- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
- ☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- ☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register
- ☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- ☐ HSR or Research report at MHT
- ☐ Other:

## 7. Description

Survey No.

M:35-75

### Condition

☒ excellent    ☐ deteriorated  
☐ good    ☐ ruins  
☐ fair    ☐ altered

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count:

See attached

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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3713 Underwood Street  
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The Clark House, located on a 12,500 square foot lot in the Village of Chevy Chase, Section 5, is a Queen Anne style house built in 1897. The 2 1/2 story frame front gable residence is set on a raised brick foundation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. First and second story walls are clad with clapboard siding, while the pedimented gable is covered with wood shingles. Hip roofed dormers on each side elevation have wood shingle siding. Windows on each level are 1/1 sash.

Facing south on Underwood Street, the primary elevation is four bays wide. The eastern two bays of the first story, including the entrance bay, are inset and sheltered by a recessed porch which extends one bay beyond the east wall of the house. A window at the southwest corner of the first level is canted, with cutwork frieze accented by a drop pendant. The second level consists of four windows. Each outer bay is connected to the adjacent inner bay with half-timbered panels. In the pedimented gable is a Palladian window with central round-headed keystone arch and curvilinear applied molding beneath the lintel.

The turned post porch supports are connected with solid brackets. The porch has a full cornice and hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. M:35-75

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian	
	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

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Specific dates	Builder/Architect
c. 1898	

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check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or  
Applicable Exceptions: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F

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Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type: Individual

Category: Residential

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Residential

Known Design Source:

## CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/75: Clark House  
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The Clark House, built in 1898, is highly significant as the residence of one of the founders of Otterbourne. In addition to being one of the earliest houses built in this community, the Clark House is noteworthy for retaining its original double-lot setting and for its continuity of ownership, having remained in the Clark family for over 40 years. The Queen Anne style residence is outstanding architecturally for its turn of the century detailing and high degree of integrity.

Otterbourne is a subdivision established in the Chevy Chase area by a group of four investors: Robert E. Earll, Eugene B. Clark, Raymond Geare, and John Frank Ellis. The men purchased 14.4 acres from the Williams family in 1892, two years after the Chevy Chase Land Company purchased land to the south and west. For convenience, the plat for Otterbourne was filed under Ellis' name. The H-shaped plat was made in July 1894, oriented toward Brookville Road, an important early transportation route. The investors divided the lots among themselves with each one receiving a number equivalent to their respective interest in the original tract of land. Clark and Earll were the only two of the four to build and reside in Otterbourne.<sup>1</sup>

Otterbourne investors clearly saw the advantage of the property's location immediately adjacent to the Land Company's development. The name Otterbourne is a reference to the medieval Ballad of Chevy Chase, which had been the origin for the name of the Chevy Chase Land Company's real estate enterprise. It was on the plains of Otterbourne in Scotland that the armies of Lord James Douglas and Sir Henry Percy met in their fabled battle. Otterbourne benefitted from its close proximity to the Rock Creek Railway (1890), which ran along the newly established Connecticut Avenue. Early residents had access to the trolley by way of a boardwalk from Delaware Street (formerly Dalkeith) to Connecticut Avenue. Otterbourne was absorbed into Section 5, and by the 1920s the east-west cross streets were extended out to Connecticut Avenue and Percy Street was renamed Thornapple Street.<sup>2</sup>

Eugene B. Clark acquired this property in October 1897 and the house was completed in the next few months. Improvements were assessed at \$1800 in 1898. At the time he built the house, Eugene Clark was a 48-year-old medical doctor who used the middle room of his home as an office. Clark later became a patent lawyer. He and his wife, Harriet Miller, and their seven

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<sup>1</sup>Equity Case #2400, 8-24-1908, describes the history of Otterbourne and its investors.

<sup>2</sup>Gwen Wright et al. "Chevy Chase, Maryland, Survey District: Survey Report: Phase Two," Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, June 1997. Otterbourne Plat, Plat Book 1: Page 1 [Filed July 9, 1894]. William Offutt, *History of Bethesda*, pp173-4.

CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/75: Clark House  
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children lived at 3713 Underwood for many years. Over time, family members included grown children, a daughter-in-law and grandson. The house remained in the Clark family until 1953, when it was purchased by the current owner.<sup>3</sup>

c35/75

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<sup>3</sup>Deed JA 60:247 (October 1897). Deed of December 1897 for 3712 Thornapple described Clark as a Chevy Chase resident. Tax assessment records, State Archives Directories, 1905, 1911, 1912, 1927. U.S. Census 1920. Klinge Atlas 1931 and 1941.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M: 35-75

See attached

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 12,500 Sq. Ft.

Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## I. Form Prepared By

name/title	Clare Lise Cavicchi, Historic Preservation Planner		
organization	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission	date	November 1998
street & number	8787 Georgia Avenue	telephone	301-563-3400
city or town	Silver Spring	state	Maryland 20910-3760

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

## CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/75: Clark House  
3713 Underwood Street  
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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### Primary Sources:

Census, U. S. 1910 and 1920.

#### Directories:

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Caldwell, S. D. *Directory of Bethesda District* (Bethesda, Md), 1911 and 1915.

Nelson, Justus C. *Nelson's Suburban Directory* (Washington, D.C.), 1912-1913.

Polk, R. L. *Polk's Washington Suburban Directory* (Washington, D.C.) 1927-1928.

Equity Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.

Fisher, Thos. J. *Chevy Chase for Homes*. Washington, D.C.: Thos. J. Fisher & C., 1916.

Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Maryland.

#### Maps:

Caldwell, S.D. *Map of Bethesda District*, 1915

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Hopkins, G.M. *Northern Virginia and Bethesda*, 1894.

Klinge *Real Estate Atlas*, 1931 and 1941.

Maryland Geological Survey Map, Bethesda & Vicinity, 1910.

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Proctor, John Clagett. *Washington, Past and Present: A History*. Including Biographical Sketches of Prominent Citizens. New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1930.

*Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capital*. Washington, D.C.: The Washington Times Co, 1924.

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*Who's Who in the Nation's Capital*. Washington: W.W. Publishing Company. 1923-24.



## CONTINUATION SHEET

M:35/75: Clark House  
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### Secondary Sources:

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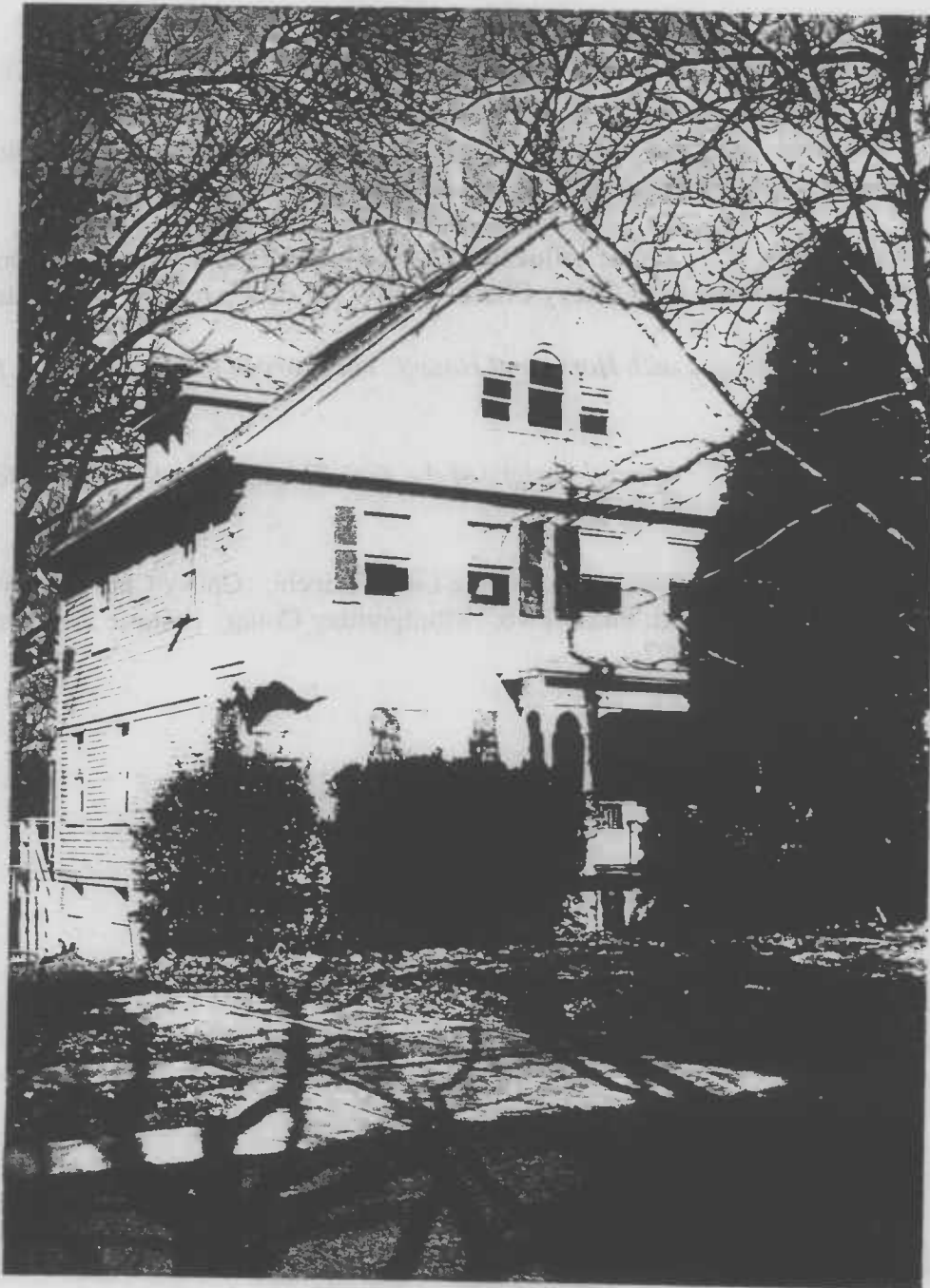
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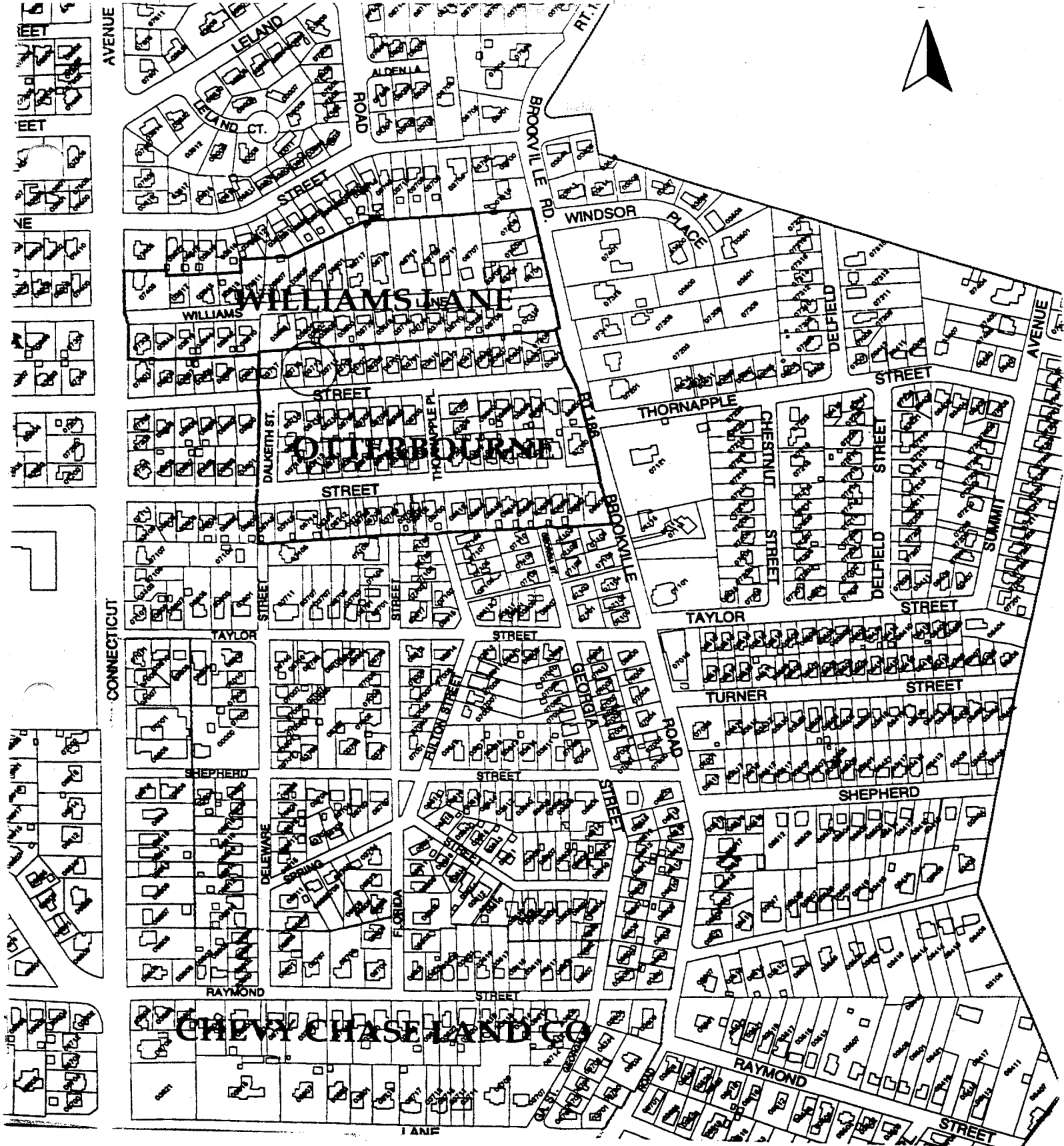
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CONTINUATION SHEET

M.35/75: Clark House (c1898)  
3713 Underwood Street





**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**  
**STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FORM**  
**LOCATIONAL MAP**

**SURVEY NO.:** M:35-75  
**PROPERTY NAME:** Clark House  
**TOWN:** Chevy Chase  
**COUNTY:** MONTGOMERY